REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 5, 2003. Claims 1-30 are presented for examination and have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly. Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 26, and 30 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claim 30 is objected to for the informalities noted on page 2. Claim 30 has been amended to correct the noted informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 25 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Although Applicant does not concede the propriety of the rejections (see, for example, page 12 at lines 24-26, and page 33 at lines 16-23), Applicant submits that the amendments to those claims renders the rejections moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,181,436 (Kurachi); and that Claims 2 and 5 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurachi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,617,518 (Kuwamoto et al.). Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 26, and 30, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by Kurachi for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a server apparatus adapted to communicate with at least one client and a printer via a network. Each

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client includes an image storage unit for storing print data of a print job. The server apparatus includes image storage means, order management means, transmission means, and control means.

The image storage means is adapted to store the print data of the print job to be executed according to a print request from a client. The order management means is adapted to manage a print order of the print job to be executed according to the print request from the client. The transmission means is adapted to transmit transmission permission information to the client based on the print order managed by the order manage means. The transmission permission information indicates that the print data may be transmitted to the printer. After the transmission means transmits the transmission permission information, and if the print data is not transmitted from the client to the printer, the control means transmits the print data of the print job of the print order from the image storage means to the printer.

One of the notable features of Claim 1 is that each client and the server apparatus are provided with a storage unit or storage means adapted to store the print data of the print job. By virtue of this feature, the print data may be transmitted to the printer by a client or by the server, in case one or the other is unable to do so.

Kurachi relates to a print management system with a plurality of clients (1, 2) and a network printer (3). As understood by Applicant, Kurachi discloses that the network printer (3) can be substituted with a set of printers and a server.

Nothing has been found in Kurachi that is believed to teach or suggest a server apparatus adapted to communicate with at least one client, each client including an image storage

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unit for storing print data of a print job, and a printer via a network, wherein the server apparatus includes "image storage means for storing the print data of the print job to be executed according to a print request from a client," and "transmission means for transmitting transmission permission information to the client based on the print order managed by said order manage means, the transmission permission information indicating that the print data may be transmitted to the printer," and "control means for transmitting the print data of the print job of the print order from said image storage means to the printer if the print data is not transmitted from the client to the printer, after said transmission means transmits the transmission permission information," as recited in Claim 1.

Kurachi is understood to teach that print data is stored only in print data storing means (3a) in the printing apparatus 3. A client (1, 2) generates and sends the print data, *but does not store the print data*. Kurachi is believed to be silent regarding storing the print data in a client (1, 2). Additionally, Kurachi is believed to be silent regarding the use of transmission permission information for indicating that the print data may be transmitted by a client to a printer.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Kurachi and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Independent Claims 4 and 7 include features similar to those discussed above, in which a client is provided with storage means for storing print data, and in which transmission permission information is used to indicate that print data may be transmitted from a client to a printer. Therefore, those claims also are believed to be patentable for at least the above reasons.

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An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 8 is directed to an information processing apparatus (client) that communicates with a server apparatus and a printer via a network. The client includes an image storage means, selection means, control means, receiving means, and transmission means.

The image storage means is adapted to store print data of a print job to be executed according to a print request. The selection means is adapted to cause a user to select a spool function of the image storage means or a spool function of the server apparatus, which is adapted to store the print data of the print job to be executed according to the print request to the server apparatus. If the selection means determines that the spool function of the server apparatus is to be used, the control means transmits the print data to the server apparatus. If it is determined that the spool function of the image storage means is to be used, the control means controls the image storage means to store the print data.

The receiving means is adapted to receive transmission permission information from the server apparatus indicating that the print data may be transmitted to the printer. The transmission means is adapted to transmit the print data to the printer when the receiving means receives the transmission permission information from the server apparatus.

One of the notable features of Claim 8 is that the user selects the spool function of the server apparatus or the spool function of the client. If the spool function of the client is selected, the print data is transmitted in response to the reception of the transmission permission information from the server apparatus. By virtue of this feature, the user is able to select the spool function to be used, and, if the spool function of the client is selected, a transmission load

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in the network can be reduced, because the print data is transmitted only after the transmission permission information is received.

Nothing has been found in Kurachi that is believed to teach or suggest an information processing apparatus (client) that communicates with a server apparatus and a printer via a network, wherein the client includes "image storage means for storing print data of a print job to be executed according to a print request," and "selection means for causing a user to select a spool function of said image storage means or a spool function of the server apparatus, which is adapted to store the print data of the print job to be executed according to the print request to the server apparatus," and "control means for, if it is determined from said selection means to use the spool function of the server apparatus, transmitting the print data to the server apparatus, whereas, if it is determined from said selection means to use the spool function of said image storage means, controlling said image storage means to store the print data," and "receiving means for receiving transmission permission information from the server apparatus indicating that the print data may be transmitted to the printer," and "transmission means for transmitting the print data to the printer when said receiving means receives the transmission permission information from the server apparatus," as recited in Claim 8.

As mentioned above in connection with Claim 1, Kurachi is understood to teach that print data is stored only in print data storing means (3a) in the printing apparatus 3. A client (1, 2) generates and sends the print data, *but does not store the print data.* Kurachi is believed to be silent regarding storing the print data in a client (1, 2). Additionally, Kurachi is believed to be silent regarding the use of transmission permission information for indicating that

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the print data may be transmitted by a client to the printer.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 8 is not anticipated by Kurachi and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Independent Claims 11, 14, 15, 18, and 21 include features similar to those discussed above and therefore also are believed to be patentable for at least the above reasons.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 22 is directed to an information processing apparatus (client) that communicates with a server apparatus and a printer via a network. The client includes image storage means, list acquisition means, job designation means, determination means, image acquisition means, and control means.

The image storage means is adapted to store image data of a print job to be executed according to a print request. The list acquisition means is adapted to acquire a list of print jobs managed by the server apparatus. The job designation means is adapted to designate a print job to be previewed based on the list of print jobs acquired by the list acquisition means.

The determination means is adapted to determining whether image data of the print job designated by the job designation means is stored in the image storage means or in the server apparatus. If it is determined by the determination means that the image data of the print job designated by the job designation means is stored in the image storage means, the image acquisition means reads the image data from the image storage means. If it is determined that the image data is stored in the server apparatus, the image acquisition means downloads the image data from the server apparatus. The control means is adapted to display a preview image based on the image data acquired by the image acquisition means.

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One of the notable features of Claim 22 is that the client is able to determine whether the image data of the print job is stored in the client or in the server apparatus. By virtue of this feature, the preview image may be properly displayed by acquiring the image data in accordance with the determination.

Nothing has been found in Kurachi that is believed to teach or suggest an information processing apparatus (client) that communicates with a server apparatus and a printer via a network, wherein the client includes "image storage means for storing image data of a print job to be executed according to a print request," and "determination means for determining whether image data of the print job designated by said job designation means is stored in said image storage means or in the server apparatus," and "image acquisition means for, if it is determined by said determination means that the image data of the print job designated by said job designation means is stored in said image storage means, reading the image data from said image storage means, whereas, if it is determined by said determination means that the image data is stored in the server apparatus, downloading the image data from the server apparatus," as recited in Claim 22.

As mentioned above in connection with Claims 1 and 8, Kurachi is understood to teach that print data is stored only in print data storing means (3a) in the printing apparatus 3. A client (1, 2) generates and sends the print data, *but does not store the print data*. Kurachi is believed to be silent regarding storing the print data in a client (1, 2). Additionally, Kurachi is believed to be silent regarding the feature of determining whether print data is stored in a client or in a server.

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Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 22 is not anticipated by Kurachi and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Independent Claims 26 and 30 include features similar to those discussed above and therefore also are believed to be patentable for at least the above reasons.

The other claims in the present application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and therefore are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Finally, nothing in Kuwamoto et al. is believed to remedy the deficiencies of Kurachi. Therefore, Claims 1-30 are respectfully submitted to be patentable over a combination of those references, considered individually or in combination.
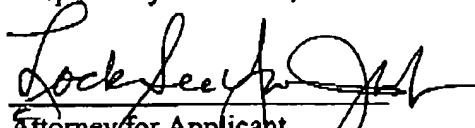
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed necessary for the present Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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